

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1025

Approved by the Governor April 13, 2000

Introduced by Suttle, 10; Byars, 30; Price, 26

AN ACT relating to nursing; to adopt the Nebraska Center for Nursing Act.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Center for Nursing Act.

Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that it is imperative that the State of Nebraska protect its investment and the progress made in its efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage which exists. The Legislature also finds that the Nebraska Center for Nursing will provide the appropriate means to do so. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds necessary for the center to carry out the Nebraska Center for Nursing Act.

Sec. 3. The Nebraska Center for Nursing is established. The center shall address issues of supply and demand for nurses, including issues of recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurses. The Legislature finds that the center will repay the state's investment by providing an ongoing strategy for the allocation of the state's resources directed towards nursing. The primary goals for the center are:

(1) To develop a strategic statewide plan to alleviate the nursing shortage in Nebraska by:

(a) Establishing and maintaining a data base on nursing supply and demand in Nebraska, including current supply and demand and future projections; and

(b) Selecting priorities from the plan to be addressed;

(2) To convene various groups representative of nurses, other health care providers, business and industry, consumers, legislators, and educators to:

(a) Review and comment on data analysis prepared for the center;

(b) Recommend systemic changes, including strategies for implementation of recommended changes; and

(c) Evaluate and report the results of these efforts to the Legislature and the public; and

(3) To enhance and promote recognition, reward, and renewal activities for nurses by:

(a) Proposing and creating recognition, reward, and renewal activities; and

(b) Promoting media and positive image-building efforts for nursing.

Sec. 4. (1) The Nebraska Center for Nursing Board is created. The board shall be a policy-setting board for the Nebraska Center for Nursing. The board shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

(a) Ten members, at least three of whom shall be registered nurses, one of whom shall be a licensed practical nurse, one of whom shall be a representative of the hospital industry, and one of whom shall be a representative of the long-term care industry;

(b) One nurse educator recommended by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska;

(c) One nurse educator recommended by the Nebraska Community College Association;

(d) One nurse educator recommended by the Nebraska Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; and

(e) Three members recommended by the State Board of Health.

(2) The initial terms of the members of the Nebraska Center for Nursing Board shall be:

(a) Five of the ten members appointed under subdivision (1)(a) of this section shall serve for one year and five shall serve for two years;

(b) The member recommended by the Board of Regents shall serve for three years;

(c) The member recommended by the Nebraska Community College Association shall serve for two years;

(d) The member recommended by the Nebraska Association of Independent Colleges and Universities shall serve for one year; and

(e) The members recommended by the State Board of Health shall serve for three years.

The initial appointments shall be made within sixty days after the effective date of this act. After the initial terms expire, the terms of all of the members shall be three years with no member serving more than two

consecutive terms.

(3) The Nebraska Center for Nursing Board shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To determine operational policy;

(b) To elect a chairperson and officers to serve two-year terms. The chairperson and officers may not succeed themselves;

(c) To establish committees of the board as needed;

(d) To appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council for input and advice on policy matters;

(e) To implement the major functions of the Nebraska Center for Nursing; and

(f) To seek and accept nonstate funds for carrying out center policy.

(4) The board members shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

(5) The Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure shall provide administrative support for the board. The board may contract for additional support not provided by the department.

Sec. 5. The Nebraska Center for Nursing Act terminates on July 1, 2005.